

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

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SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /050 W

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P 271000Z FDB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHEC PRIORITY 6730

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0361

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, EINV, CT, CASC

SUBJECT: SCED EMPLOYEE DENIED EXIT PERMISSION

REF: BANGUI 0330

1. LOCAL AUTHORITIES FEBRUARY 26 PREVENTED AMCIT SCED EMPLOYEE BRIAN CAMPBELL FROM DEPARTING CAR ON UTA FLIGHT TO PARIS ON GROUNDS THAT HIS NAME WAS ON A LIST OF SCED EMPLOYEES FORBIDDEN TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. CAMPBELL WAS IN POSSESSION OF THREE INDEPENDENT MEDICAL CERTIFICATES WHICH DESCRIBED HIS CONDITION AS ONE OF MENTAL DEPRESSION AND RECOMMENDED THAT HE SHOULD SEEK MORE ADEQUATE CARE OUTSIDE OF CAR.

2. EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER PROMPTLY VISITED CAMPBELL AT LOCAL GENDARMERIE WHERE HE WAS TAKEN INTO TEMPORARY CUSTODY BEFORE BEING RETURNED TO SCED'S TRANSIT LODGINGS WHERE HE HAD BEEN STAYING SINCE RETURNING TO BANGUI, FEBRUARY 22 FROM SCED'S WESTERN CAR FIELD HEADQUARTERS. CAMPBELL HAS NOW BEEN RELEASED IN PERSONAL CUSTODY OF DDI MANAGER OELBAUM. CONSULAR OFFICER HAS SUBSEQUENTLY SEEN CAMPBELL SEVERAL TIMES SINCE HIS RELEASE AND HAS FOUND HIM WELL IF SOMEWHAT DDPRESSED.

3. CONOFF HAS ALSO DISCUSSED CASE WITH GOCAR POLICE OFFICIAL WHO SAID THAT CAMPBELL WOULD PROBABLY BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE CAR IN SEVERAL DAYS AS SCED INVESTIGATION EXPECTED TO BE CONCLUDED IMMINENTLY AND DECISION TOAKEN ON SCED'S FUTURE. MEANWHILE ALL SCED EMPLOYEES
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ARE TO REMAIN IN CAR. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT BOKASSA WHO USUALLY
RESERVES DECISIONS OF THIS MAGNITUDE TO HIMSELF IS AT PRESENT
IN N'DELE FOR AN ANNOUNCED PERIOD OF REST AND WE DOUBT THAT THE
SCED/GOCAR PROBLEM WILL SO QUICKLY BE RESOLVED.

4. EMBASSY IS CONTINUING TO TREAT CAMPBELL CASE AS CONSULAR AND WILL
ASSIST DDI TO ARRANGE FOR CAMPBELL TO DEPART FOR APPROPRIATE
MEDICAL
TREATMENT. GIVEN CURRENT PERIOD OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITY WE DO NOT
THINK IT WOULD BE EITHER IN DDI OR USG INTEREST TO ESCALATE CAMPBELL
CASE TO POLITICAL LEVEL AT THIS TIME. SHOULD THERE BE UNUSUAL
DELAYS OR SHOULD CAMPBELL'S CONDITION WORSEN WE WOULD, OF COURSE,
HAVE TO TAKE FURTHER LOOK AT DESIRABILITY OF FORMAL DEMARCHE.
QUAINTO

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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